



## State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

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### **Governor Bill Richardson Signs Bill to Provide Medicaid Services for Persons with Brain Injuries**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today signed House Bill 318, sponsored by Representative Gail Beam, which passed unanimously in both the House and Senate in this year's legislative session. HB 318 appropriates \$2,000,000 from the general fund to the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, in cooperation with the Human Services Department, for home and community-based services for persons with a brain injury.

This funding will provide early treatment and long-term services to individuals who have not previously had adequate services to meet their needs. Services for this program will become available through *Mi Via*, New Mexico's new Medicaid "self-directed" waiver as soon as it is ready to accept participants.

"It is critical for persons with a brain injury to receive uninterrupted services from the time of injury forward," Governor Richardson said. "Our goal with this legislation is to provide comprehensive services beginning as early as possible when there is a much greater chance of that individual returning to productivity and better health."

HB 318 does not create a new and separate Medicaid program. Persons with brain injuries sometimes qualify for services from other Medicaid waivers, but because their needs are unique, other waiver services often do not adequately meet all requirements to support maximum recovery.